

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 02125 251600Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 IO-13 SSM-05 /085 W
-----260548Z 104183 /22

R 251449Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5420
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2125

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: MAARIV'S FIRST POLL SHOWS ALIGNMENT WELL AHEAD

REF: TEL AVIV 2084

1. IN THE FIRST POLL COMMISSIONED BY MAARIV IN THE CURRENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN, AND PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S EDITION, THE ALIGNMENT HAS A SUBSTANTIAL LEAD OVER THE LIKUD. THIS GAP, ALTHOUGH SLIMMER THAN THE ONE REFLECTED IN PORI'S LATEST POLL (REFTEL), TENDS TO CONFIRM A SHIFT TO THE ALIGNMENT.
2. THE HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED MARCH 9-18, COVERED 1200 VOTERS AND INCLUDED RESIDENTS OF TOWNS, MOSHAVIM, KIBBUTZIM AND MINORITY (ARABS AND DRUZE) VILLAGES. THE RESULTS IN PERCENTAGES WERE AS FOLLOWS:

ALIGNMENT--32; LIKUD--23; DMC--13; RELIGIOUS PARTIES--7;
RAKAH-3; SHLOMZION--2.5; MINORITIES--2.5; ALL
OTHER PARTIES--2; NO PREFERENCES--15. IN ADDITION
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TO THE 15 PERCENT WHO STATED NO PREFERENCE, ANOTHER
15 PERCENT (NOT INCLUDED IN ABOVE RESULTS) REFUSED
TO ANSWER.

3. THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF HANOCH SMITH, WHO WAS FORMERLY A GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN AND ITS FOREMOST EXPERT ON OPINION

TAKING. HE POINTS OUT IT WAS TAKEN "SHORTLY AFTER THE LABOR PARTY CONVENTION, WHICH HAD AROUSED A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION BY VIRTUE OF THE OPEN AND DEMOCRATIC CONTEST BETWEEN THE TWO CANDIDATES FOR THE PREMIERSHIP, AND IT WAS ALSO DURING THE VISIT TO THE U.S. OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN. THE POLL REFLECTS THE TENSION AT THE ILP CONVENTION--PERHAPS THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE LACK OF VOTES THIS PARTY OBTAINED IN THE POLL. IT ALSO REFLECTS THE PRE-ELECTION ATMOSPHERE WITHIN THE DMC. MOREOVER, THE LIKUD, NRP AND THE NEW AND SMALLER PARTIES HAVE NOT AS YET HELD THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS NOR FINALIZED THEIR KNESSET LISTS. THIS COULD ALSO HAVE A CERTAIN INFLUENCE ON THE VOTERS' PREFERENCES.

4. " DESPITE ALL THESE LIMITATIONS, A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE SITUATION AT THIS STAGE OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IS OBTAINED. THE POLL INDICATES THAT THE ALIGNMENT STILL HAS A SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGE, STATISTICALLY, OVER THE LIKUD, WHICH IS ITS CLOSEST COMPETITOR. ADDITIONAL SUPPORT OF THESE PARTIES MIGHT COME TO LIGHT WHEN SOME OF THOSE UNDECIDED 15 PERCENT MAKE UP THEIR MINDS. ANOTHER CONSPICUOUS ITEM IS THE EMERGENCE OF THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE AS A PARTY CARRYING QUITE SOME WEIGHT; 13 PERCENT OF THE VOTES ACCORD IT THIRD PLACE AMONG THE PARTY LISTS. NOT ONLY DID THIS EMERGENCE OF A STRONG DMC ATTRACT VOTES AWAY FROM THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES--IT ALSO LED TO A SERIOUS LOSS OF VOTES--

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AT THIS STAGE, ANYWAY--WHERE THE OLD AND SMALLER PARTIES ARE CONCERNED."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Film Number: D770104-0169
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Litigation History:
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